

NOMURA et al.

Appl. No. 09/892,747

Response to Office Action dated September 13, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In order to solve the above problems, a program supply method of the present invention that supplies programs from a server via the Internet to a terminal apparatus comprises the steps of transmitting data of an operating environment of a user system via a network to the server before supplying the program[[:]], judging whether the program is operable or not in the operating environment, and transmitting a result of the judgment from the server via the network to the user system.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 4 shows various options (expansion units) which are available to the user according to his/her needs with respect to the printer body 20 which is a complex digital image forming apparatus. Examples of such options include an automatic document feeding apparatus 21, a scanner 22, an interface (I/F) 23, an expansion unit 24, a hard disc (HD) 25, a memory 26, a finisher 27, and a sorter. However, not only these options but also other various options meeting users' needs can be used. Further, the options may be used individually or in combination of two or more kinds.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

However, when various optional units are complex with the image formation apparatus 3 suitably by the user, the operating environment of the image formation apparatus 3 varies greatly. In order to cope with this change in the operating environment, many programs are provided in the server 1, but it is necessary to grasp the operating environment of the image formation apparatus 3 exactly, and to properly select the programs suitable for the operating environment. If the operating environment is not grasped exactly and a wrong program is selected, not only the image formation apparatus 3 cannot function properly, but the selected

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program sometimes cannot perform at all and goes to waste. However, grasping the varying operating environment and selecting the programs suitable for the operating environment are a great burden for the user, and the user cannot avoid selecting wrong programs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Here, since the program list is generated without considering the operating environment of the image forming apparatus 3, the program titles "ELECTRIC FILE (COLOR READING)" and "ELECTRIC FILE (BLACK-AND-WHITE READING)" are both displayed. In these programs, one or the other of the two can be operated in the operating environment of the image forming apparatus 3, and they cannot be ~~Thus, there is no~~ operated together. Also, the program titles "IMAGE EDIT (APPLIED TO BOOK BINDING)" and "IMAGE EDIT (SIMPLIFIED VERSION)" are both displayed, but only one of these two programs can be operated in the operating environment of the image forming apparatus 3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Thus, when expanding functions of a product which enables the user to select various options according to his/her need and combine it with a basic unit, like the complex digital image forming apparatus, there are often cases where the user makes misjudgment and purchases the program which is inoperable and is asked to pay for the program.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 38, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Further, before the user requests the server 32 to transmit the program, the server 32 supplies a list of programs which can be supplied by the server 32 to the image forming apparatus 31. Thus, even when the user does ~~do~~ not know specific programs, the user only needs to select the program from the program list provided by the server 32. This improves the convenience of ordering programs via the communication lines.